UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.35
10 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 21. Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

1. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 4 June, the Committee considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations stressed the importance of the social aspects of development and expressed their support for the activities proposed under section 21. Several delegations were of the view that the growing recognition of social development issues was not adequately reflected in terms of the resources allocated to the section. The view was expressed that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should be strengthened in the context of the review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues under the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Doubts were expressed about the adequacy of the resources proposed for the implementation of the activities related to the Year of the Family and the preparation of the World Conference

on Women, taking into account, in particular, the small size of the Division for the Advancement of Women at Vienna.

3. Several delegations supported the distribution of the resources among programmes and subprogrammes. Other delegations commented on the relatively small proportion of extrabudgetary resources for financing activities under the section and suggested that efforts should be undertaken by the Secretariat to increase them.

4. Some delegations said that activities relating to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination against Women, under subprogramme 1 of programme C, should be assigned a high priority. Questions were raised about the low priority designation for specific ad hoc group activities and publications programmed under subprogramme 1 of programme B and subprogrammes 1 and 3 of programme C.

5. Some delegations questioned the adequacy of the consultancy work (para. 21.23) which included the policy issue, selection of targets for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992.

6. One delegation suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women should be biennialized, while other delegations supported the current arrangements. The view was expressed that section 21 was still the proper section where activities and related resources for the preparation of the report on the World Social Situation should be programmed.

7. Different views were expressed on the proposed conversion of posts from temporary to established under programme C.

8. Several delegations expressed their support for Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/16 of 30 May 1991, whereby the Council requested the Secretary-General to add specific recommendations, within the overall level of the budget of the Organization, to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to strengthen and rationalize the resources of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in order to enable it better to fulfil its mandates and carry out its activities in the social and related fields and for the advancement of women. Other delegations considered that this resolution would be taken into account in the preparation of the programme budget through the relevant statements of programme budget implications.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee took note of the statement and assurances made by the Secretariat that the report requested in General Assembly decision 45/428 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

10. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.